

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested for Claims 8-28 in view of the foregoing Amendment and the following remarks.

It is noted with appreciation that Claims 17 and 19 are deemed allowable.

A corrected drawing is concurrently submitted herewith. The drawing correction has been approved by the Examiner.

Responsive to the objection to the Information Disclosure Statement, attached hereto is an Information Disclosure Statement with two references and the corresponding Foreign Search Report with an English translation thereof. Also submitted are the original filings of the Information Disclosure Statement along with a copy of a stamped postcard from November 13, 2000, showing the Information Disclosure Statement, including the Foreign Search Report and Form PTO-1449. Consideration of the cited documents is respectfully requested.

Responsive to the claim objections, by way of the foregoing Amendment, the objections are obviated. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, by way of the foregoing Amendment, the rejections are obviated. Regarding the rejection to Claims 13 and 15, these rejections are respectfully traversed. A pump has a pressure side and a suction side and, therefore, the limitation is definite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-16 and 20-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Bucci et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Bucci et al. does not disclose or suggest, among other features a pressure accumulator which, after the engine is switched off, the fuel stored in the pressure accumulator rinses the fuel filter to thereby operatively deposit said dirt into

said tank. Bucci et al. shows that there are two filter materials present in Figure 2. The filter materials are 50, which is a bag surrounding the metallic baffles 66 and the filter material at the end or bottom of canister 26, given as reference numeral 92. The apparatus in Bucci et al. operates by accumulating fuel in the canister 26 which flows through the filter material 92 and then through orifice 90 into the baffle region of the filter. This fuel then is taken up again by the pump 14 via the orifice plate near reference numeral 60. The Examiner has noted that before the fuel travels into the fuel pump inlet 16, it travels through the filter material 50, wherein any dirt would be filtered out and would deposit at the bottom of the filter housing 18, which corresponds to the area between baffle 66 and the bottom wall 68 of the tank. However, as fuel is sucked in from the outside of filter material 50; the dirt from the tank outside of filter 50 is deposited on the outside of filter material 50. Thus, this dirt deposited outside of filter material 50 does not gain entrance into the inside of the filter on the baffle area. This dirt on the outside of the filter material, cannot be deposited into the filter. Likewise, the fuel flowing from canister 26 through orifice 90 is filtered at 92. The dirt in this case would collect on the upper portion of filter material 92 and is not entrained in the fuel entering the baffle region. In this way, dirt, as alleged in the Office Action, does not gain entrance into the baffle region of the fuel filter 50. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is not anticipated by Bucci et al., as noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding Claim 22, Bucci et al. does not disclose or suggest, among other features, rinsing dirt from the filter material by sending the fuel accumulated in the pressure accumulator through the fuel filter when the engine is turned off, thereby the fuel washes the dirt on the filter material into the deposition tank. As noted above, entrained dirt in the fuel does not gain entrance into the interior of the filter 50. The Office Action, in effect, is alleging that the interior of the

fuel filter is the housing into which dirt accumulates. However, the allegation in the Office Action as to this accumulation is inconsistent with how a fuel filter works, that is, dirt collects only on the outside of the filter bag. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is not anticipated by Bucci et al., as noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #951/49129).

Respectfully submitted,



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